



August 26, 2013

To: Regional Centers, LEA's, Charters, and Educators

From: Sandra Laine, Education Program Specialist–Reading
Oran Tkatchov, Director of Professional Development
Angela Denning, Deputy Associate Superintendent of Exceptional Student Services

Re: ***LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) Training Opportunities***

In support of A.R.S. 15-701 (Move On When Reading) and Arizona's Common Core ELA standards, the Arizona Department of Education is extending a professional development opportunity for schools to improve their teaching of reading. This professional development opportunity is consistent with ADE's commitment to building capacity at the local, regional, and state levels.

ADE's Exceptional Student Services section is collaborating with the K–12 Academic Standards section to provide **LETRS** training in Arizona. The ***LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling)*** course content is strongly aligned to the Arizona Common Core Standards in these areas: Foundational Skills (K–5), Reading Standards for Literature and Informational Text (K–5), and Language Standards (K–5). The **LETRS** content is designed as a course of study that connects research to practice using accessible language and interactive exercises. **LETRS** training provides excellent information for K–5 teachers and special education teachers, K–12.

Exceptional Student Services is offering two options for a participant to complete **LETRS** training:

Option 1: Participant will complete **LETRS** modules 1–9 and be able to use the content in his or her classroom and in collaboration with colleagues (dates and locations are listed on the [ESS Calendar](#) on the ADE website). The cost per participant is \$1,399.00. For those choosing Option 1, please register for **LETRS** training via the Calendar of Events on the ADE website by **October 11, 2013**.

Option 2: Participant will complete the **LETRS** modules, the Training of Trainers (TOT) modules, and Coaching (dates and locations are on the Training Information page of the [application](#)). Upon completion of the course requirements, the certified **LETRS** trainer would then be available to train teachers in the district and region. For the special education teacher or coach of special education teachers who successfully completes the course requirements, a grant will be offered to reimburse funds for training, materials, and travel. The cost per participant is \$4,299. For those requesting to participate in Option 2, please submit the attached application by **October 11, 2013**.

Because **LETRS** training is an intense course focused on literacy knowledge and skills, it is suggested that a participant seeking to attend the training of trainers (TOT) has background knowledge in reading instruction. We suggest that a school or district send an English language arts specialist, reading interventionist, special education specialist, or master special education teacher to participate in this training.

TOT participants must commit to:

- attending all LETRS module training days.
- attending all TOT training and coaching days.
- passing the course exam upon completion.
- supporting the ADE/regional rollout of **LETRS** training for teachers across the state.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sandra Laine at Sandra.Laine@azed.gov or call (602) 542-3962.